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COUNTRY

East Germany

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Military Information from Rathenow

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 1 to 20 September 1952

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DATE PREPARED 10 October 1952

REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. After 3 p.m. on 19 September 1952, about 40 rocket launchers, [redacted] and troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were loaded on about 20 boxcars at the Premnitz railroad station south of Rathenow (N 53/4 15). The departure of the train was not observed. At the beginning of September, [redacted] a rocket launcher unit with many troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia at Camp Premnitz. Not less than 150 motor vehicles were lined up in rows in one section of the camp. Fifty-two rocket launchers were parked in a large and a small garage. Both garages were open. [redacted]

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2. In the afternoon of 19 September, 14 heavy SP guns [redacted] and 5 JS tanks [redacted] and 3 salvage tanks were loaded at the Rathenow main railroad station by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. [redacted]

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3. A large exercise held on 18 September in the area of Rathenow Albertsheim-Friesack (N 53/E 27) involved armored scout cars, twin-barreled AA guns, 80 and 120-mm mortars and AT guns which, supported by the air force, crossed the Havel River near Albertsheim north of Rathenow. [redacted]

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4. During the period from 1 to 10 September, the units of the Rathenow post, with the exception of the headquarters in the Ziethen Kaserne on Bahnhofstrasse, were out in the field for summer training. On 3 September, [redacted] ration supplies from Rathenow to Beverlingen for the troops practicing in the Magdeburg-Stendal area, the supplies having been consigned to the two battalions from the Ziethen Kaserne. The rations were issued to Major Denshak (phonetic spelling), the supply officer [redacted] the troops would not return to Rathenow before October. At the beginning of September, [redacted] a total of 40 officers of the headquarters from the Ziethen Kaserne turned in their washing to a laundry in Rathenow. Lieutenant Shvechen (phonetic spelling) (fnu) of the 1st battalion was observed training with the recruits

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that arrived in the Diethen Kaserne at the end of August.

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150 recruits engaged in close-order drill with and without gas masks, training with range finders and telephone communication service. The daily tour of duty provided for reveille at 6 a.m.; athletic exercise from 7 to 8 a.m.; drill in the barracks yard from 9 to 11 a.m.; instruction from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; interior duty from 5 to 7 p.m.; and instruction from 7 to 8 p.m.

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Comment. [redacted] on 10 and 11 September 1952 that 30 to 35 rocket launchers of the 25th AL Brig had been loaded in Prenitz. [redacted] The guns reported in the present report make a total of at least 70 to 75 rocket launchers for the brigade which has hitherto been carried as being equipped with 32 guns. The numbers of motor vehicles and guns mentioned are believed to be too high.

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Comment. [redacted] the field exercise was held by elements of the Second U.S. Army including units of the 1st Aech Div, the IV Arty Corps including units of the 6th Arty Div, and air force troops. This confirms previous assumptions according to which both components of the Second U.S. Army from several posts unloaded in Doberitz from 13 to 15 September and elements of the 1st Aech Div transferred from their barracks installations at the same time, moved to the area west of Berlin-Dahlem for large field exercises.

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the field exercises were to last about 4 days.

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The loading of tanks on 19 September and that on 20 September was carried out by engineer troops of the Second U.S. Army and tends to indicate the completion of the exercises upon which the elements of the army probably return to their posts.

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Comment. No change appears to have occurred since [redacted] the end of August 1952. [redacted] The two battalions from the Diethen Kaserne reported in the present report are probably the 821st Arty Bn of the 6th Arty Div and an unidentified signal battalion of the IV Arty Corps or the 6th Arty Div.

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